

[English]

Dues of CIL

5473. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount which the power and steel companies owe to the Coal India Ltd., separately under the disputed and undisputed heads at present as on date;

(b) whether the Central Government has decided to clear off the undisputed portion of State-owned power companies due till December, 1996 to the public sector coal major, Coal India Ltd;

(c) if so, the rationale behind this decision; and

(d) the undisputed amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The outstanding dues to Coal India Limited from Power and Steel sectors as on 31.3.1997 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

(Data provisional)

	Disputed	Undisputed	Total
Power	1653.55	1222.13	2875.68
Steel	454.87	44.09	498.96

(b) Government approved the proposal regarding deduction of outstanding dues of public sector undertakings as on 31.12.96 under the Ministry of Power/Railways/Coal/Atomic Energy through Central Appropriation with the stipulation that such appropriation be restricted annually to a maximum of 15% of the Central Plan Assistance for the concerned State irrespective of the number of years that it may take for the outstanding dues to be cleared.

(c) Governments intervention was necessary as the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards had mounted and they had not made arrangements to clear even the undisputed dues.

(d) The undisputed dues from SEBs/Power Utilities as on 31.12.96 was Rs. 1248.07 crores (provisional).

Assistance to Kalinganagar Steel Plant

5474. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any project through Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. a joint-sector company of MMTC for seeking financial assistance from Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) for the steel plant at Kalinganagar (Dubri);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) the time by which the above project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up an integrated Steel Plant in Orissa for production of 1.1 million tonnes steel wire rods, steel billets and pig iron with the participation of MMTC, Govt. of Orissa, MECON, Commonwealth Development Corpn. of UK and Lucky Goldstar of Korea is under consideration.

(c) Land for the Project has been acquired. Blast furnace has been imported and transported to the site and Financial institutions have appraised the Project. All statutory clearances have been obtained.

(d) At present, the Government have permitted MMTC to invest Rs. 100 crores in Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. and Rs. 49 crores in KMCL.

Export Growth

5475. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of various products during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the achievement made in this regard upto March 31, 1997;

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the export of various products by the Government during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) For the year 1996-97 an export target of around US \$ 38 billion was envisaged based on 18-20% dollar growth. As per available provisional data from DGCI & S, exports during 1996-97 are placed at US \$ 33.1 billion. No targets have yet been fixed for 1997-98.

(c) India's exports during April-March 1996-97 as per provisional DGCI & S data are placed at Rs. 117525 crores. These export earnings valued in dollar terms amount to US \$ 33106 million.

(d) Steps to boost exports of various products are continuously being taken. These include inter alia, changes in policies and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and Industry etc.

Amendment to Essential Commodities Act (Cotton)

5476. SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Gujarat Cotton Association has requested the Government to remove certain provisions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1981 which attract criminal processings against the traders held at a Convention in November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision of the Act are being misused by the authorities indiscriminately in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details of the provisions under the Act which are creating hurdles in the trading of cotton in the State; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove those hurdles so that the trading community may get relief?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government have received a representation from Shree Saurashtra-Kutch Ginning & Pressing Factories and Cotton Merchant Association requesting that cotton be removed from the list of items under the Essential Commodities Act.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Joint venture with NBCC

5477. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank Commercial Corporation (NBCC) has formed joint venture with three Indian partners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects likely to be undertaken under the said joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Nationsbank Commercial corporation, Atlanta, USA has been granted approval in August, 1996 to set up a joint venture company viz. Foremost Factors Ltd. to provide domestic and export factoring services. M/s Mohan Exports (India) Ltd. and M/s 20th Century Finance Corporation Ltd., Bombay are the Indian promoters for this joint venture.

Foreign investment

5478. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Investment Promotion Council has written to more than 150 foreign companies whose proposals have been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board to invest in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of companies responded to it;

(c) whether these companies have not shown keen interest to implement their proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) addressed letters to various companies, whose proposals were approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, to assess the status of their projects and to obtain information about the bottlenecks, if any, faced by them in implementing the projects.

(b) to (d) A few companies have responded to the letter indicating the existing position regarding implementation of the project. While showing their interest to implement the projects, they have referred to some problems faced by them in implementing the same.

World Bank Assistance to CIL

5479. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has sought assistance from World Bank and other foreign financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the amount sought alongwith the names of the projects for which amount has been sought;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of ongoing World Bank aided schemes in Coal sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to complete these projects within the period and also ensure the proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Coal India has sought assistance from World Bank and from no other financial institution.

(b) The details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount in
1.	Environmental and Social Mitigation Project	US \$ 63 million
2.	Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project	US \$ 12 million
3.	**Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project	US # 1070 million

** This projects is yet to be approved by World Bank.

(c) and (d) The World Bank assisted projects are reviewed by Ministry of Coal from time to time with World Bank officials. Last review was held in April, 1997.